

April 27, 2004

Dear MA Federally Permitted Seafood Dealer:

As you are probably well aware by now, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is implementing several changes to dealer reporting requirements. Under the new federal regulation, most federally licensed dealers purchasing fish or shellfish from fishermen will be required to report all transactions electronically to NMFS.

It is our understanding, after permit reconciliation with NMFS, that you will be required to report your daily transactions with fishermen electronically, as of May 1, 2004. You are also reporting purchases of quota managed species via the call-in or IVR system managed by MA Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF). **Although NMFS has indicated that you will no longer be required to report your purchases of quota managed species to an IVR system as of May 1, MA DMF has decided to require that you will continue to report to the IVR system, until it is determined that you have reported consistently to both systems for three consecutive weeks.** Once it is determined that the data matches for three consecutive weeks we will notify you that you do not have to report through the MA IVR system any longer.

Please note that species purchased directly from fishermen must be reported to the new electronic dealer reporting system, including finfish, shellfish or any products bought and sold for bait purposes (pogies, eels, etc.). In addition, the new system requires identifying not only the vessel selling the catch, but the fisherman and the associated state commercial permit. Because some fishermen have more than one state commercial permit, it is important to identify that permit by the unique **MA DMF ID number** as displayed on the fisherman's permit. This is not to be confused by the four-digit permit number, as these numbers are often not unique.

More information on the new federal dealer reporting requirements can be found on the NMFS website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/doc/nero.html> or by contacting them at 978-281-9300. If you have any questions regarding your state reporting requirements contact the Division of Marine Fisheries at 978-282-0308 (Kim Lundy x117 or Tom Hoopes x 112).

Sincerely,

MA DMF Statistics Project